

teachers of the young to instruct them in the literature of the Bible and in the poets, historians, essayists, and novelists whose works endure.

Young people, do not be content with the book that fascinates for a moment; but read the book that will give you something to live by, some lofty ideal to inspire you every day; do not strive to keep pace with the books of which nothing more than that they are popular can be said; instead delve into the books that touch your heart and awaken your conscience; do not endeavor to read a great many books but rather digest a few good ones. The world is abundantly rich in good literature. It is idle and wrong to spend more than a little of one's time reading what is not actually helpful. That one thoroughly digests a dozen good books is far better than that one merely reads a hundred not so good.

Literary Notes

Mr. William Allen White has just returned from Lawton, where he went to write for *The Saturday Evening Post*, of Philadelphia, the story of the "opening" of the Indian lands. Mr. White's vivid account of the mushroom city that sprang up in a night is of striking and timely interest.

Lord Balfour, of Burleigh, Secretary for Scotland, and Lord Rector of the University of Edinburgh, will contribute to an early number of *The Saturday Evening Post*, of Philadelphia, a paper of official significance on Carnegie's Gift to Scotland. Lord Balfour is one of the trustees of the millions Mr. Carnegie has given to the Scotch universities.

The World's Work for September contains the strikingly interesting story of one of the most notable achievements American industry has ever accomplished. How the famous Gokteik viaduct was built near Mandalay, of American made material, according to an American estimate, by an American company, is told by J. C. Turk, who was the engineer in charge of the construction, and the article is finely illustrated by photographs taken in India by the author. And the magazine has many other interesting features. To lovers of country life and the growing of plants and fruits, two articles, one about the Arnold Arboretum, by Sylvester Baxter, and the other concerning Luther Burbank and his remarkable experiments, by Liberty H. Bailey, both handsomely illustrated, will appeal to lovers of outdoor work. William H. Hunt writes of the condition of civil government in Porto Rico, and there is a description of the famous journey of the Philippine Commission in establishing civil government. Two intimate character studies, one of Frederick D. Tappan, by William Justus Boies, and another of Emerson McMillin, by Arthur Goodrich, give a view of the personal as well as the business side of the well-known banker and the man who has revolutionized the gas business. There are articles on "Financing Trusts"—how the under-writing syndicates work—by E. J. Edwards; on "Saving Boys from Crime"—the successful parole system—by Lillie Hamilton French; on the new page printing telegraph, by Maximilian Foster, and about the Porto Rican Seal, by Francis E. Leupp. An anonymous writer has something to say about the treatment publishers accord new writers, and M. B. Corse tells how to save magazine literature. The March of Events treats many timely topics and includes a statement from Postmaster-General Smith about the new second-class mail law, and in *Among the World's Workers* there are short articles about the by prod-

ucts of oil, uses of concrete, a novel apprentice system, Lloyds, new inventions and many other examples of industrial progress.

There was a period, St. Nicholas tells us, when it was not altogether absurd to say, "It must be true, for I saw it in a book." Then few books were printed, and those few were meant only for the learned. Whatever was put into print was first carefully weighed and considered to see if it were worth keeping. But now print is so common that every sort of idea, saying, or notion, may be sent out to the world in the decent black of printer's ink, and so dressed may outwardly compare well with words of true wisdom and worth. Therefore young readers must look on print with less reverence than it gained from their fathers or grandfathers, and must be on their guard against foolish or false words and statements.

It has recently been well said: "If we are to believe advertisements, the 'opportunity of a lifetime' is something that occurs every few days." You must judge of printed statements by their source—just as you judge what is said to you by the worth of the speaker.

The Hem of His Garment

J. M. Buckley.

It is an interesting fact that a large number of the miracles of Jesus were wrought thru direct contact with himself. He had the power to perform his wonderful works without regard to the limitations of time or space, and he exercised this power repeatedly, but his preference seemed to be to come into personal physical contact with the people. How many were thus helped by his gracious interposition it is impossible to determine, for on many occasions the multitude, on whom he had great compassion, eagerly besought him to bless and heal them. It is stated that when he came nigh unto the Sea of Galilee, and going up into a mountain sat down there, immediately a great multitude of lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others came and cast themselves down at his feet, and that he healed them; and they glorified the God of Israel. On another occasion when he and his disciples had come into the land of Gennesaret, the men of the place brought in from the neighboring country all that were diseased, and besought Jesus that they might be permitted to touch even the hem of his garment, and as many as touched were made perfectly whole."

There was a marvelous potency in that touch of the Christ in the flesh; but there is as wonderful an influence in contact with the Christ in the Spirit. Men and women were transformed by his touch, and in these times they are regenerated by spiritual contact with him. St. Paul declares a profound but mysterious spiritual fact when he says, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." This was but the recording of his own experience, since he was a most remarkable example of spiritual transformation following personal contact with the Son of God. How this change is wrought is past finding out. It is a work performed by the Spirit, and of it Jesus himself, in endeavoring to enlighten the mind of

Nicodemus, said: "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." But that the miracle of spiritual recreation is wrought none can doubt who has any knowledge of spiritual phenomena, or has marked the lives of men and women who profess to have experienced the wonderful change commonly called "conversion."

There seems to be a tendency in some quarters to look upon conversion as a mere theological term which has practically outlived its usefulness. In others it is questioned whether, after all, conversion is an essential to salvation, in spite of the repeated declarations of our Lord himself and of the Scriptures generally. It will not do to be too tenacious of mere terms, yet the time has not come for discarding so expressive and authorized a word as conversion; while those who spurn the word and are indifferent to the necessity for the experience for which it stands place a wrong interpretation upon the Scriptures, and invalidate the express declaration of Jesus, hinder the work of the Church by belittling it as a center of spiritual influence and power, and place in jeopardy the salvation of many souls.

In these days much is heard and said about numbers, and some deliver themselves of doleful speech whenever the statistical exhibits of the Church show a falling off in the membership, however slight. The fact is, too much is made of mere numbers. The strength of the Church does not lie in its long muster rolls. Better thousands on the Church records who know from sweet and blessed experience that they have been born again, and that their sins have been forgiven and washed away in the blood of the Lamb, than hundreds of thousands who have experienced no spiritual change, who know nothing of the mysteries of the kingdom, who cannot enter into the fellowship and communion of the saints, and who are ignorant of the holy language of heaven.

The great need of the Church of God today—in all its branches—is the reassertion with holy fervor from its pulpits of the profound spiritual essentials for which the Church stands; and the appropriation and enjoyment on the part of the people of the Church generally of those spiritual experiences which are guaranteed in the Scriptures to all who have been born again, and follow their Lord in sincerity and truth. In short, there are many professing to be Christians who, on examining their spiritual state in the light of the clear declarations of our Lord on conversion, will acknowledge that they need to join that invisible multitude of the spiritually diseased that is ever crowding about the Great Physician of souls, and to touch if only the hem of His garment, in order that they may be made spiritually whole. It was the divine Master Himself who said: "Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."